

BRIGADIER GENERAL SANDY BEST

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to honor my friend, Brigadier General Sandy Best, the first woman in the Minnesota National Guard to be promoted to the rank of General. In recognition of her extraordinary leadership and exemplary service to the Guard and to our Nation, she began her new command of the 133rd Airlift Wing and 148th Fighter Wing on February 25th.

In her many visits to my office, General Best has always been an outstanding advocate for the Minnesota National Guard. She exemplifies the best of what makes our National Guard so effective. In her former role as the Minnesota National Guard's Director of Government Relations she advocated for Minnesota's bases at the federal and state level, contributing greatly to making our state's bases some of America's premier defense operations.

Members of the Minnesota National Guard have been deployed around the world, and they always stand ready to help our region when natural disasters strike and people are in need of aid and assistance. I'm confident that both the 133rd Airlift Wing and 148th Fighter Wing are in strong hands under General Best's command. And I know she will continue her strong advocacy for the brilliant, highly trained and hardworking men and women of Minnesota's National Guard.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing General Sandy Best for her historic accomplishment and service to our great nation.

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATORS

HON. KEVIN CRAMER

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest challenges in public education is the integration of learning opportunities for exceptional children.

Dedicated parents, teachers, staff and administrators all contribute to the success of this effort. Today I congratulate Meredith Frisch, a paraprofessional at Westside Elementary School in West Fargo, who was recognized as Paraeducator of the Year by the North Dakota Council for Exceptional Children.

This award recognizes individuals who work to promote significant educational successes for students, a commitment to continued professional development and the highest standards of educational quality.

Meredith represents well all paraeducators in my state who dedicate their careers to working with exceptional students. She is known for her commitment to finding the best in all students, encouraging them to reach above and beyond their potential all with a unique brand of compassion and humor.

She is a credit to all educators throughout North Dakota, and our state is better because of her devotion to exceptional students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend House Roll Call Vote Numbers 71 through 78 on February 11, 2016. If present, I would have voted Yes on vote numbers 71, 73, 74, and 75 and voted No on vote numbers 72, 76, 77 and 78.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF OFFICER DAVID
HOFER**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and memory of Officer David Hofer of the Euless, Texas Police Department. Officer Hofer was tragically killed while serving in the line of duty on March 1, 2016.

David's career as an officer began in 2009 after joining the New York Police Department. A native of Brooklyn, New York and a 2008 graduate of New York University, David fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer soon after completing his degree. After dutifully serving the people of New York for five years, David relocated to North Texas where he accepted a position with the Euless Police Department.

David was an upstanding citizen of the community, and an outstanding police officer. He is remembered as a loving son, brother, fiancé, and hero. David's service and dedication to his neighbors, his community, and the City of Euless will never be forgotten. As we memorialize David's life within the halls of Congress, may we never forget his commitment and sacrifice for the safety and wellbeing of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today to recognize a true hero. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Officer David Hofer.

IN HONOR OF JAMES KEHOE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Kehoe on his recent retirement as Business Manager for the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 322 of Winslow Township, New Jersey, after thirty-six years of membership. Jim has had a lasting impact for generations to come and I would like to applaud him for his service.

Jim graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Business Administration in 1979 and then joined the Local 322 Apprenticeship Program. He served his community tirelessly with the Camden County Improvement Authority and the Camden County United Way. As Vice President of the Southern New Jersey

AFL-CIO, a board member of the Union Organization for Social Service and president of the Southern New Jersey Building Trades Council, Jim worked to improve the lives of working families in New Jersey.

As a trustee at Rowan University, a board member on the Senator Walter Rand Institute of Public Affairs at Rutgers University and as chair of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, Jim has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of families and all of southern New Jersey. Jim has worked with multiple community service organizations, including the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Boy Scouts of America and the American Red Cross and I commend him for his social action and devotion to the betterment of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, James Kehoe is a great American whose dedication to community service is an inspiration to his family, friends, and our entire state. I join with his Plumbers & Pipefitters brothers and sisters and all of New Jersey in thanking him for his outstanding service and in wishing him continued success and prosperity in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF H. MARIE
SMITH'S 90TH BIRTHDAY**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of H. Marie Smith, an institution in Monroe, Michigan.

Marie Smith, or Sweet Marie as she is known by many, was born on March 1st, 1926 in Monroe, Michigan, which remains her home to this day. She married William D. Smith on December 27th, 1947, and had four wonderful children; Mark, Paul W., Brian and Alison.

Marie Smith has been part of the fabric of the Monroe community for decades. As a young woman, she worked in the Betrus Market. This market was owned and operated by her parents for 47 years and was considered the "meeting place for the neighborhood". Marie lived in the building connected to the market until she married. In 1948, Marie and her husband cofounded the Monroe Community Players to produce theatrical productions for the people of Monroe and Southeast Michigan. To this day, the Monroe Community Players is still working as a nonprofit and volunteer organization to produce performances for the community. Even though "Sweet Marie" has retired, she still helps as a house manager for the Monroe Community Players.

To this day, she lives on her own, drives her own car, is active on social media and is critical in keeping people connected to ensure they are a part of the broader community. Her children have made her proud. Mark was a respected attorney in Monroe. Paul W. is known throughout America as the voice of the Great Lakes on the number one radio station, WJR. Alison is well-known in the healthcare community as a senior executive with ProMedica.

H. Marie Smith has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the people of Monroe through her support of and passion for the arts in Monroe. She continues the tradition of one of the staple markets and community gathering locations, serving as the glue that binds people. We celebrate her birthday with